

PRESS RELEASE:
January 10, 2007

**TENNESSEE ETHICS COMMISSION REPORTS DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST
FILING REQUIREMENT FOR ELECTED LOCAL OFFICIALS AND CERTAIN
STATE OFFICIALS:**

The Tennessee Ethics Commission, which commenced operations on October 1, 2006, today reports that all local elected officials and certain State officials must file financial disclosure information with the Commission by January 31, 2007.

An independent Tennessee Ethics Commission was created as a result of the Ethics Reform Act of 2006. As part of the new law, elected local officials, who in the past filed with county election officials, must now file their disclosure statements with the Commission. In furtherance of this requirement, each of the State's 95 counties has provided the Commission with their most recent list of names and addresses for their local elected officials. The Commission has written to each of the local elected officials, reminding them of the filing requirement, and providing them information on how they can obtain the form and instructions. Many local elected officials have downloaded the disclosure form from the Commission's website, and mailed the form to the Commission. In future years, the Commission hopes that elected local officials may be able to file electronically. The disclosure forms are publicly available.

The disclosure of interest statement requires local elected officials to provide certain personal financial information as well as that pertaining to their spouses and minor children living at home, such as their sources of incomes in excess of \$1,000, investments, lobbying contracts, and certain loans. All disclosure statements must be signed by the local elected official and a witness.

In addition, certain State officials must complete the same disclosure form by January 31, 2007. This group, numbering approximately 100 State officials, includes appellate and supreme court judges, district attorneys, public defenders, the presidents of the University of Tennessee campuses, and the members of the Tennessee Ethics Commission.

Members of the General Assembly, the Governor, the Governor's Cabinet, and the Constitutional Officers are required to complete a lengthier disclosure of interest statement, however, their forms are not due to be filed with the Commission until April 15, 2007.

For further information, please refer to the Commission's website, www.state.tn.gov/sos/tec or contact Bruce A. Androphy, the Commission's Executive Director, at 615-253-2666.